THE RUDDER

Sailings of the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps

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January 2025

HOLIDAY EDITION

Volume 13, Issue 1

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Cover Page: Happy Holidays from the Medical Service Corps! More on page 24.

FROM THE MSC DIRECTOR

MSC Colleagues,

THANK YOU for a **GREAT** 2024! I am profoundly grateful to work with such a highly talented and capable group of professionals. What **YOU** do matters and counts! I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the impact you have upon others—both professionally and personally—and the impact you have upon our mission. You have done a lot, and you have much to be proud of in 2024. The MSC thrived in 2024 because of **YOU**!

It is with a very heavy heart that I share with you that we recently lost two esteemed colleagues, CAPT (Ret.) David Christopher Collins, HCA, and CAPT (Ret.) Carl Chitwood, HCA, both of whom had a profound impact not only on the MSC, but Navy Medicine. CAPT (Ret.) Chitwood served in the Navy for 38 years, first as an enlisted Seaman before commissioning as a Healthcare Administrator, and later retired as a Captain. After his Navy retirement, he worked as the Chief Financial Officer for Hospital Corp. of America until his retirement in 2002. CAPT (Ret.) Collins served in the Navy for 36 years after enlisting in 1983 and later earning his commission as a Healthcare Administrator. I was extremely fortunate to have worked with Dave, and on several occasions, I literally followed in his footsteps, assuming roles that he held. What was always evident to me, was how much Dave inspired others and that he unabashedly loved his family, friends, his Navy family, and as many of you know, all things Detroit and University of Michigan. Over the holidays, I was honored to attend a memorial at NH/NMRTC Jacksonville where Dave served as the 43rd Commanding Officer. Many shared stories and memories of Dave and his unending commitment to all of the crew he served as CO. Please keep Carl and Dave's families in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

On a lighter note, the start of a New Year offers a lot of promise and opportunities; it is a unique moment in time where we can chart a new direction. Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be an exciting year. Our first issue of this calendar year kicks off with excellent information about Medical Logistics throughout several pages. First, the High Reliability Organization Spotlight article on page 10 demonstrates our ever-changing operational environment by showcasing how drones can be used to deliver Class VIII supplies in

(continued on next page)

far-forward operating areas; we cannot understate how important these advanced capabilities will enhance operational reach for future large-scale combat operations. Our "From the Labs" featured story on page 11 highlights some potential into future medical evacuation platforms with the "air ambulance" concept. The Reserve Update on page 8 further amplifies Medical Logistics in action.

Moreover, several articles in this edition show our fellow MSC officers providing professional development information that our junior officers should find especially helpful. Our Navy Entomologists give an update on their quite literal de-bugging efforts in deployed environments on page 14. Also, all Service members should find some valuable information in the lateral transfer and redesignation article on page 12 written by CDR Sandeep Kumar, our Medical Department Officer Community Manager. In summary, each article truly highlights the exceptional work of our MSC officers, and I am excited and eager to see more professional development work in The Rudder this upcoming year!

This holiday issue showcases many MSC officers celebrating the holiday spirit from around the globe beginning on page 24. Thank you to all the commands who submitted photos this year as they added an extra personal touch to this iteration of the newsletter. I am very grateful to be a part of the MSC and I look forward to seeing you all at our quarterly virtual MSC Town Halls. In closing, I hope that you have a restorative holiday season and Happy New Year!

With respect and admiration! M. Case

M. CASE
Rear Admiral, Medical Service Corps
United States Navy
Director, Medical Service Corps

Jacksonville, Fla. Pictured above (L-R): CDR Hak Auth, Biochemistry, introduces U.S. Navy Surgeon General and Chief, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), RADM Darin K. Via to staff members at the Navy Drug Screening Laboratory Jacksonville on 6 December 2024. During his visit, RADM Via presented coins to staff members for their exemplary work.

MEET OUR NEW MSC POLICY AND PRACTICE OFFICER, CDR BRYAN PYLE, MSC, USN

By: Mr. Andre Sobocinski, BUMED Historian

In September 2024, after nearly two decades of practicing as a Navy Clinical Social Worker, CDR Bryan Pyle assumed the role as the Policy and Practice Officer within the Navy Medical Service Corps Office at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED).

CDR Pyle's Navy career began in December 2005 following years as a civilian case worker in community mental health and a care manager in managed care. These roles provided him with valuable insights into the complexities of mental health care and the importance of effective care management. However, with the country immersed in the Global War on Terror, CDR Pyle sought opportunities to make a more meaningful impact.

"I got the bug to serve my country, and to do something bigger than myself," said CDR Pyle.

Within six months of commissioning, and while serving at the Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD), he received orders to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center for a 12-month tour. This deployment was followed immediately by a "short tour" from NMCSD to a one-year tour at the Naval Support Activity Diego Garcia working for Fleet and Family Support Centers.

These experiences proved foundational for CDR Pyle's future career and help underscore the demanding realities of military service, highlighting the Navy's constant readiness to respond to global crises.

"I had three very different experiences within three years," said CDR Pyle. "I was at a large MTF in San Diego, then I was at an operational MTF in Europe working for the Army and dealing with war wounded for a full year, and then I went to a remote austere environment tour where I was one of one."

In the ensuing years, the Navy provided CDR Pyle an assortment of opportunities and experiences from conducting behavioral health surveillance of Individual Augmentees (IAs) in Afghanistan as part of a Mobile Care Team to serving as: Department Head, Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services at Naval Hospital Rota; Chief, Adult Outpatient Behavior Health Clinic, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), Bethesda, Md.; Deputy Director, Embedded Psychological Health Team, U.S. Fleet Forces, Naval Expeditionary Combat Command; Director for Branch Health Clinics at the Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Naples, Italy; and Navy Specialty Leader for Clinical Social Work.

In his new role as the Policy and Practice Officer, CDR Pyle is eager to leverage his extensive career experience to develop and to implement policies that support the over 3,000 dedicated men and women serving in the Medical Service Corps today.

"I'm excited to take the lead and assist the corps chiefs and the specialties, sub-specialties, in understanding and navigating the impact of policy," said CDR Pyle. "In this role, I look forward to making a positive impact on the careers of those who dedicate themselves to serving our nation every day."

As he embarks on this new chapter, it is clear that CDR Pyle is uniquely qualified to make a substantial contribution to the Navy's Medical Service Corps.

IN MEMORIAM

CAPT (Ret.) Carl Chitwood

Healthcare Administrator

17 May 1940 – 24 December 2024

CAPT (Ret.) Carl Chitwood, age 84, passed away peacefully after a brief illness. He dedicated 38 years of service to the U.S. Navy, rising from Seaman to Captain in the Medical Service Corps. Throughout his distinguished career, he was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal twice and the Legion of Merit in 1993. After retiring from the Navy, Carl served as Chief Financial Officer for Hospital Corporation of America until his full retirement in 2002. In his later years, he enjoyed playing golf.

Carl earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management from the University of Maryland and a Master of Science in Human Relations from Golden Gate University.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 43 years, Myrna; his son, Robert; his daughter, Cathi; his parents, Clyde and Ellen; and his brother, Paul. He is survived by his daughter, Shelley; his sister, Susan; his granddaughter, Marianne; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on 8 January 2025 at Rosewood-Kellum Funeral Home in Virginia Beach, Va.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation whose Web site is support.pkdcure.org, or P.O Box 871847, Kansas City, MO 64187.

Source of obituary: Click here

IN MEMORIAM

CAPT (Ret.) David C. Collins

Healthcare Administration

11 August 1965 – 29 November 2024

David Christopher Collins, 59, of Springfield, Ore., passed away on Friday, 29 November 2024, as the result of injuries sustained when a drunk driver near Portland, Ore., struck his car. He was born on 11 August 1965, at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

David was a 1983 graduate of Yale High School. He served his country for 36 years in the United States Navy. He enlisted in the Navy in 1983 and eventually entered Officer Candidate School. David's final position in the Navy was as the Executive Assistant to the Navy Surgeon General. While serving in the Navy, he earned both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. David served with distinction, including deployments to the Western Pacific, Okinawa, Bahrain, Afghanistan, and numerous U.S. Naval facilities. He retired from the Navy as a Captain in 2019. Following his retirement from the Navy, he worked in healthcare administration and, until his passing, for the Veterans Administration.

David is survived by his loving wife, Susan Lawver; his children, Ryan (Autumn) Collins and their son Jameson; Brenna (Dominic Pacini) Collins and their mother Cindy Collins; Marie Gaglione and Joseph Gaglione, along with their mother, Margaret MacKrell-Gaglione. He is also survived by his siblings, Lisa Collins and her children, Eric Bedy and Emily Bedy, and their father, Daniel Bedy; Dianna Collins; and Michael (Nicole) Collins and their children, Ethan, Kate, and Grayson.

David's extended family includes many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends who will cherish his memory. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Jr. and Lucy Collins, and his grandparents, George and Lucille Eschker and Edward Sr. and Mary Collins.

David loved being a father and took immense pride in his children. He cherished every milestone, big or small, and was always their biggest cheerleader. Whether celebrating their achievements, offering a listening ear, or sharing words of wisdom, David's devotion to his children was unwavering. He found joy in supporting their dreams, guiding them through challenges, and creating lasting memories together. His love was evident in every interaction, and he left no doubt about how proud he was of the people they had become. David's role as a father was not just a responsibility but a true source of fulfillment and pride in his life.

David's Naval career required frequent relocations, but no matter where he went, Michigan always held a special place in his heart. He remained a devoted fan of Detroit sports, an allegiance that often tested his patience but never his loyalty. Through the highs and lows, David proudly cheered on the Red Wings and Lions, embodying the resilience and determination of a true Detroit fan. His love for the University of Michigan ran deep, and game days were always a time of excitement and unwavering support. No matter where life took him, David was always ready to root for his teams, finding joy in the camaraderie and pride of being a Michigan fan.

David felt fortunate to have grown up with a large family. Most weekends in his childhood were spent at his grandmother's house with his siblings and many cousins, enjoying a chicken BBQ and playing baseball in the yard. He is the Godfather to his niece Emily and nephew Ethan. His family members supported him throughout his career and traveled to many of his Navy ceremonies. It meant the world to him to have his family with him as he celebrated these milestones.

David embraced his retirement to the fullest, savoring every moment of his new chapter. He loved the state's breathtaking beauty after moving to Oregon with his wife, Sue. Whether on the pickleball court, a sport he played passionately, or camping in remote and serene

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locations, David found joy and peace in the great outdoors. His adventurous spirit and love for nature truly reflect his zest for life.

It is nearly impossible to capture what David meant to everyone who knew him. He was a kind-hearted soul, always ready to lend a helping hand and quick to turn strangers into friends. During his Navy career, he never missed an opportunity to celebrate—and to enjoy the cake that came with it. Known for his love of frosting, David often suggested a larger cake than needed, ensuring plenty to go around—and a little extra for himself. His warmth, humor, and sweet tooth brightened every occasion.

David was deeply loved by all who knew him, and he returned that love tenfold to his family and friends. His kindness, warmth, and unwavering support were a source of comfort and inspiration to everyone around him. David's love was unconditional, and he showed it through his actions, words, and genuine care for others.

He was more than a husband, father, and friend—he was our family's hero. Whether offering sage advice, a helping hand, or simply his presence, David was the anchor that kept us steady. His memory will always live on in our hearts, reminding us to approach life with the same love, humor, and strength he so effortlessly embodied. We will carry his legacy forward, cherishing the lessons he taught us and the countless moments of joy he gave us.

Memorials may be made to Mothers Against Drunk Driving. For more information and tribute wall visit: kaatzfunerals.com

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of David, please visit this floral store.

Source of obituary: Click here

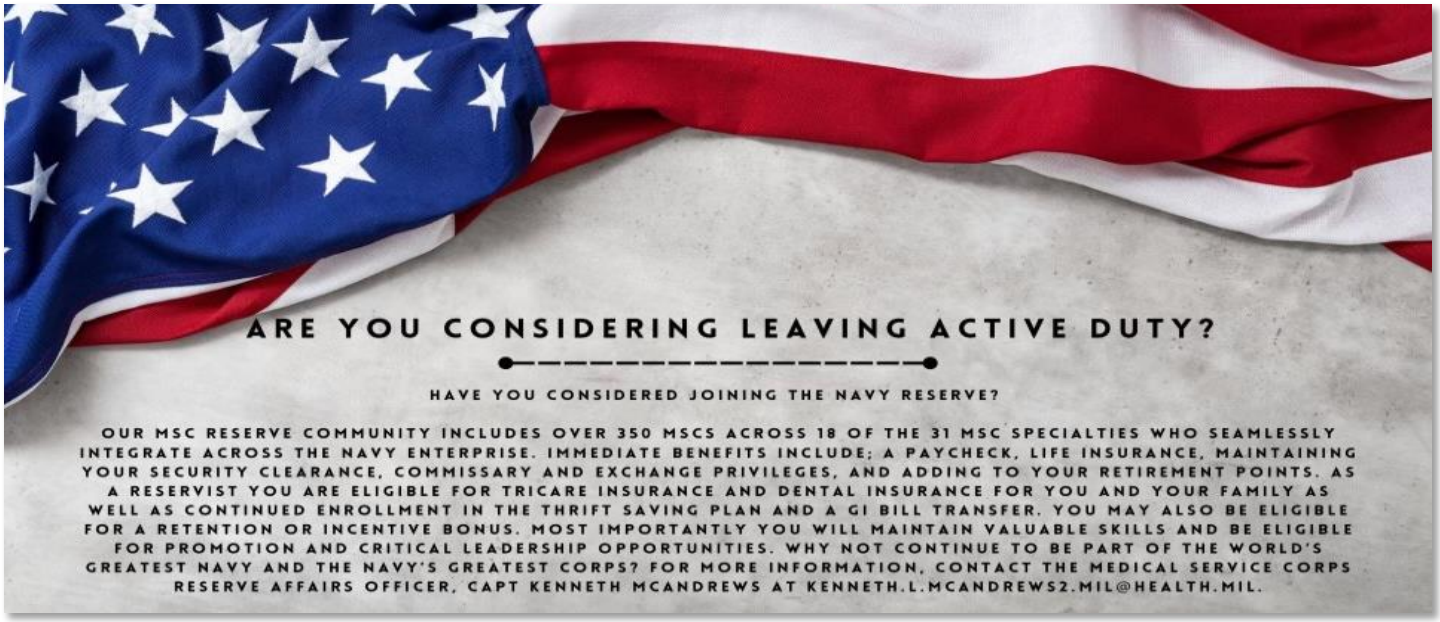
RESERVE UPDATE

RESERVE COMPONENT OF MEDICAL LOGISTICS

Reserve Component Medical Logistics Officers proudly serve on operational platforms across five Budget Submitting Offices (BSOs) and 15 commands. Through various recruitment initiatives and education about the community, the Reserve Corps Medical Logistics community has increased by 25% over the last two years.

Camp Pendleton, Calif. Pictured left: LCDR Amy Brown, Medical Logistics, provides medical logistics support to 4th Medical Battalion during a training exercise.

Fort McCoy, Wis. Pictured above: LCDR Amy Brown (center), Medical Logistics, provides 14 days of support during Global Medic.



FROM THE DETAILERS

RECORD UPDATES ON MYNAVY HR WEBSITE

Have you ever had a question about how to correct your official record?

Or maybe, where to find a template for a letter to the board?

Or wondered what laws apply to officer retirement?

While social media and blogs are popular sources, they are not an official resource and can sometimes be outdated or incorrect. The most common first stop ask the detailer at Navy Personnel Command. We are always here as a resource to help answer those questions, but our best kept secret is not really a secret at all. There is another great resource out there too—My Navy HR web pages! In fact, it is one of our own first go-to sources for new questions or policy changes.

It is updated regularly by the associated subject matter experts and can answer most of the policy questions you may have in a matter of keystrokes. Just simply open your favorite search engine and type "MyNavyHR…." followed by your question. You will quickly and easily find yourself at the right web page with all the related contacts, references, and FAQs. The most common pages are listed below, but the possibilities are endless.

Officer Record Update:
https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Records-Management/Military-Personnel-Records/Officer-Record-Update/

Officer Retirement Laws:
https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Retirement/Officer-Retirements/Officer-Retirement-Laws/

Selection Board Support:
https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Boards/Selection-Board-Support/

Detailer Update:

- CONUS/OCONUS orders release is four months out from PCS date.
- Letters to the promotion board must arrive 10 days before the convening date of the board.
- Check your record and call your detailer for a record review.

HRO SPOTLIGHT

OPERATIONAL MEDICAL LOGISTICS

By: LCDR Telia Wright and LT Dean Junio, Medical Logisticians

Camp Lejeune, N.C. Sailors assigned to 2nd Medical Logistics Company, 2nd Combat Readiness Regiment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group pose for a photo behind the TRV-150 drone. Pictured above (L-R): LS3 David Lecik, LCDR Telia Wright, Medical Logistics, and LSSN Milagro Otero.

In an Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations (EABO) environment, efficient logistics are critical for mission success. Class VIII supplies, which include medical supplies and equipment, often face challenges in timely delivery due to terrain, enemy threats, and limited access routes. Traditional resupply methods can be slow and fraught with potentially grave risk, leading to potentially catastrophic shortages in critical medical resources. The primary limitation in the current Class VIII resupply process is the overdependence on ground transportation. These methods are vulnerable to ambush, require significant manpower, and can be impeded by adverse weather, difficult terrain, and a myriad of other logistical obstacles and constraints.

The primary objective of re-supply field tests was to examine the possibility of overcoming the risks and providing an alternative to existing methods of supply. The exercise provided a controlled environment for participants to exercise Class VIII resupply via TRV-150 drone. In collaboration with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, Sailors with 2nd Medical Logistics Company, 2nd Combat Readiness Regiment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group conducted the first successful Class VIII medical resupply via TRV-150 drone on 30 October 2024. Our objective was to improve the speed and reliability of Class VIII resupply operations in an EABO environment by implementing and testing drone technology for medical supply transport. To further operationalize medical logistics, we attached two Logistics Specialists with the Role 2, staffed by 2nd Medical Battalion, to manage medical supplies for the duration of the exercise. We pre-selected the medical products of various sizes, weight, and dimension for the resupply and coordinated a series of test flights to deliver Class VIII supplies directly to 2nd Medical Battalion at the Role 2 during the exercise. We measured the delivery time, reliability, and responsiveness of the TRV-150 drone. From these field tests, we observed significant reduction in delivery times for Class VIII medical supplies as well as reduced risk to personnel during resupply missions, which could increase medical supply availability in forward operating areas.

The implementation of drone technology for Class VIII resupply in an EABO environment demonstrates a promising solution to logistical challenges and may ultimately tip the scale toward success in real wartime scenarios. By streamlining the resupply process, alternative resupply methods can ensure timely access to critical medical resources, ultimately improving casualty care and outcomes. Future testing should focus on scaling the program in various weather conditions and exploring the integration of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence for route optimization and inventory management.

Camp Lejeune, N.C. Pictured above: LS3 David Lecik inventories Class VIII supplies delivered by TRV-150 drone.

FROM THE LABS

TAKING ENHANCED COMBAT SURVIVABILITY TO NEW HEIGHTS *Air Ambulance eVTOL MEDEVAC Drone Concept*

By: LCDR Michael L. Fisher, POMI

Oxford dictionary currently defines medical evacuation or MEDEVAC as "the evacuation of military or other casualties to the hospital in a helicopter or airplane," bringing to mind the familiar scenario in the photos on the right of patients being loaded onto an Army UH-60 "Dust Off" helicopter or images of the Bell 47G M*A*S*H* helicopter, but also onto C-130 Hercules aircraft for longer transits to and from the roles of care.

Knowing that in the next major conflict, evacuation of Naval and Marine Corps casualties in a contested environment will be quite challenging, the Navy Surgeon General's Line of Effort (LOE) 1 focuses on delivery of new expeditionary medicine (EXMED) platforms.

There is a potential tool, albeit I agree a far-fetched reality now, that might be given some serious consideration for employment within the naval expeditionary health service support in the Distributed Maritime and Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations (DMO/EABO) environment is the electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) air ambulance.

Source: https://army.mil

*Top picture: Patients being loaded onto an Army UH-60. Bottom picture. The Bell 47G M*A*S*H* helicopter.*

Pictured above: eVTOL Air Ambulance Conceptual Model

The concept will allow single MEDEVAC patients that could be loaded into a long, thin fuselage powered by twin propeller-fan assemblies flanking the cabin that provide forward, rear, and vertical flight. The cabin has a roof hatch that allows rescuers and medical personnel to lower a stretcher patient inside a climate-controlled interior that also protects the patient from wind shear and inclement weather.

The manufacturer states that it is unknown if there is or will be an option for installing additional medical equipment inside the cabin, but once inside, the patient can communicate with providers via microphone and speakers whilst being flown remotely or autonomously to a hospital or medical facility. The fixed skid landing gear makes the aircraft inherently safer to fly with enhanced safety and redundant features, and for potential wartime applications, the eVTOL air ambulance can be sent to a wounded servicemember without risking a medic or corpsman's life inside a kinetic fight. It is not known when a prototype will be flown or available for the MEDEVAC drone, but this concept has serious potential as a game-changer on the battlefield in future conflicts. Resource: https://evtol.news/airborne-motorworks-air-ambulance

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

LATERAL TRANSFER AND REDESIGNATION OF ACTIVE COMPONENT

By: CDR Sandeep Kumar, Manpower, Medical Department Officer Community Manager, BUPERS

The lateral transfer and redesignation process provides flexibility in officer community manning and improves the Navy's return on investment in officer training and education by maximizing and utilizing the specialized skillsets of officers throughout their careers.

Applicability:

- Officers applying for lateral transfer and redesignation into another community must meet the applicable criteria specified for that community and the precepts set forth in the board quota letter.
- Officers may request consideration for no more than three designators within the same or different competitive categories and must meet any other such eligibility requirements as may be prescribed by Deputy CHNAVPERS.
- Applicants must have completed at least 24 months of commissioned service above the grade of chief warrant officer (CWO) 5.
- Officers with an approved resignation or retirement request are not eligible to apply to the board.
- Officers who have been notified that they are being processed for administrative separation, are not eligible to apply to the board.
- If serving under an agreement for any special or incentive pay in which an obligation is incurred, an officer is not eligible to apply to the board until within one year of satisfaction of that obligation.
- Officers must possess at least a baccalaureate degree, with the exception of LDOs. Otherwise, eligible LDOs within six months of completing their degree must include an official letter from an accredited university or college stating they are in good standing, the expected degree, and the expected graduation date (month and year).
- Officers must agree to serve on active duty at least three years from the date of designator change, to be served concurrently with any other obligations.
- Officers in the unrestricted line may not request lateral transfer and redesignation until within one year of completing obligated service in their present community as a result of functional training received.
- Officers in the unrestricted line must have achieved final warfare qualification in their current community before applying for lateral transfer and redesignation.
- Officers requesting lateral transfer into or within the staff corps must meet additional eligibility criteria prescribed by the applicable Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) instruction for appointment in that community.

Applications to be Considered: Prior to consideration at the board, all officers must have the concurrence of ***the current and potential gaining officer community managers*** to ensure their eligibility for lateral transfer.

Quotas: There are 10 quotas available for lateral transfer into the Medical Service Corps. Currently, there are no quotas available to transition out of the Medical Service Corps, however, a request for a Lateral Transfer will be considered on a case-by-case basis with approval from the Officer Community Manager and the Corps Chief's office.

Link to the Lateral Transfer and Redesignation Information: https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Boards/Administrative/Transfer-Redesignation/

For specific questions, please reach out to the MSC Officer Community Manager:

CDR Sandeep Kumar
sandeep.kumar2.mil@us.navy.mil
901-874-2370

NAMRU EURACENT XO NAMED 2024 NAVY OPTOMETRIST OF THE YEAR

By: Ms. Greta Ruffino, Naval Medical Research Command

Sigonella, Italy Pictured left: CDR Micah Kinney, Executive Officer, Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) EURAFCENT, and the 2024 Navy Optometrist of the Year as designated by the Armed Forces Optometric Society, poses for a photo aboard Naval Air Station Sigonella on 15 November 2024. NAMRU EURAFCENT conducts infectious disease research and surveillance to study, monitor and detect emerging and re-emerging disease threats of military and public health importance, and to develop mitigation strategies against these threats in partnership with host nations and international and U.S. agencies in U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), Central Command (CENTCOM), and European Command (EUCOM) areas of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by Greta Ruffino/Released)

CDR Micah Kinney, Executive Officer of Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) EURAFCENT, was named the 2024 Navy Optometrist of the Year during an Armed Forces Optometric Society (AFOS) ceremony held 5 November 2024 in Indianapolis, Ind. The AFOS Optometrist of the Year award recognizes significant contributions to the advancement of AFOS and optometry across federal service.

"CDR Kinney's background in providing clinical care to keep Navy personnel 'in the fight,' combined with his insights and experience on how operationally focused research help to provide a competitive advantage to U.S. forces make him a great addition to the team," said CAPT Virginia Blackman, Commanding Officer, NAMRU EURAFCENT. "I appreciate his leadership and fresh perspective as we continue to build on our past successes and strengthen NAMRU EURAFCENT's foundations."

CDR Kinney, a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, reported to NAMRU EURAFCENT's Sigonella-based headquarters in June 2024.

"I am humbled and honored to have been selected as this year's Navy optometrist of the year," said CDR Kinney. "These awards not only recognize an individual, but the team and support system around that individual. I share this honor with my colleagues and partners who have helped improve warfighter protections and visual performance."

This is not the first time that AFOS has recognized CDR Kinney. In 2018, he received he received the Navy Junior Optometrist of the Year award.

"Optometrists provide 'sight for the fight' and work as key partners within the Military Health System to keep our military performing at their peak. I am proud to be a Navy Optometrist and for the work that AFOS does to forward our profession not only in the military but across all federal services," CDR Kinney added.

NAMRU EURAFCENT conducts infectious disease research and surveillance to study, monitor and detect emerging and re-emerging disease threats of military and public health importance, and to develop mitigation strategies against these threats in partnership with host nations and international and U.S. agencies in U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), Central Command (CENTCOM), and European Command (EUCOM) areas of responsibility.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

NAVY ENTOMOLOGISTS PRESENT TO ARMED FORCES PEST MANAGEMENT BOARD

By: LT Thomas Kleier, Navy Entomology Center of Excellence, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla.

Silver Spring, Md. CDR Michael Kavanaugh, Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE) Officer in Charge (OIC), delivers a presentation on filth fly control in contingency operations, during the 219th Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB) meeting, held 9-13 September 2024.

Members from the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE) highlighted advancements in military pest control at the 219th Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB) meeting that was held 9-13 September 2024 in Silver Spring, Md. During the meeting, the NECE team addressed issues critical to Service members' health and readiness through improved pest management strategies.

Vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, have historically resulted in more casualties than combat for U.S. forces. Because of this, both the Army and Navy formed specialized units during World War II, respectively named Mosquito Survey units and Malaria Control Units (also known as "Skeeter Beeters"), with a goal to mitigate the impact of vector-borne diseases on mission readiness. The success of these units resulted in the permanent establishment of vector control capabilities within the Services and the establishment of the AFPMB to guide Department of Defense (DoD) pest management practices.

Today, AFPMB remains dedicated to preventing pests from impacting military operations. The AFBPMB meets twice a year to review DoD pest management practices and policies, and entomologists throughout the DoD present at the meetings to share information and recommend new products and methods for Board consideration. Because NECE has a unique mission to develop and evaluate novel products, pesticides, and application technologies to protect deployed warfighters from vector-borne diseases, NECE entomologists play an important role in communicating key advancements in operational pest management to the AFPMB. Attendance at AFPMB meetings is also important for the professional development of U.S. Navy entomologists, as it allows them to network with entomologists throughout the DoD and stay up to date on current challenges and advances in military pest management.

"Attending this meeting in person was invaluable,"

(continued on next page)

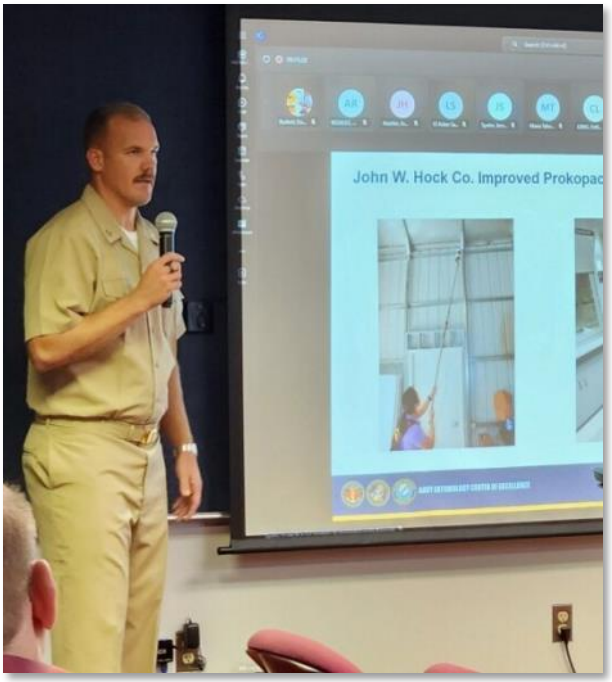
said LT Nicholas Johnston, Department Head of Testing and Evaluation at NECE. "Having the opportunity to network with subject matter experts from other branches and get the chance to observe the process for recommending new pest management products, helped clarify steps needed to address future gaps in pest control resources."

During the event, LT Johnston presented updates on permethrin-treated uniforms, a vital component of warfighter protection from vector-borne diseases, sharing his efforts to secure a concentrated option for uniform treatment—a crucial upgrade for service members' protection during deployments. LT Thomas Kleier, Department Head of Global Health Operations at NECE, introduced a new insect surveillance tool now available across the DoD. The lightweight tool, designed for Navy expeditionary platforms, can collect various insects including mosquitoes and filth flies, supporting entomological surveillance in deployed settings.

Finally, CDR Michael Kavanaugh, NECE's Officer-in-Charge (OIC), led a panel discussion on filth flies in contingency operations, providing expertise on how to control the Navy's most persistent pest. CDR Kavanaugh leaned on his experiences during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom to describe how these pests can spread rapidly in critical operations and best practices for pest control.

NECE is the Navy and Marine Corps' Center of Excellence for operational entomology located at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla. NECE's unique DoD mission is to develop and evaluate novel products, pesticides, and technologies to better protect deployed forces from vectors of disease. NECE also provides operational medical entomology and pest management training to DoD military and civilian personnel and is the program manager for all Navy shipboard pest management. NECE plays a key role in supporting national strategic interests though engagement and exchange with foreign health and military partners.

The mission of the AFPMB is to ensure environmentally sound, safe, and effective pest control programs are in place to protect DoD operations. AFPMB convenes twice annually, fostering collaboration among DoD Pest Management members to address critical issues and enhance warfighter support. Each meeting includes the AFPMB Council and joint service committees focused on policy, operational support, research, and train-



Silver Spring, Md. LT Thomas Kleier, Department Head of Global Health Operations at Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE) delivers a presentation on a new, lightweight insect surveillance tool, during the 219th Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB) meeting, held 9-13 September 2024. This tool which is now available across the Department of Defense, supports entomological monitoring in deployed settings, especially for Navy expeditionary platforms.

Silver Spring, Md. LT Nicholas Johnston, Department Head of Testing and Evaluation at Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE), delivers a presentation on permethrin-treated uniforms, during the 219th Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB) meeting, held 9-13 September 2024. Permethrin-treated uniforms are an essential element warfighter protection from vector-borne diseases. LT Johnston revealed plans to obtain a concentrated form for treating uniforms—a significant enhancement for protecting service members during deployments.

MSCs IN FOCUS

Chicago, Ill. Pictured above: Naval Aerospace and Operational Physiologist, CDR Amanda Lippert (center), receives the Aerospace Medical Association's 2024 Kent K. Gillingham Award. The award recognizes dedication to aerospace medicine and human performance, and CDR Lippert was specifically recognized for her work with Galvanic Vestibular Stimulation and Spatial Disorientation.

Pensacola, Fla. Naval Survival Training Institute (NSTI) staff and other Naval Aerospace and Operational Physiologists proudly show off the new "Dilbert Dunker" exhibit at the National Naval Aviation Museum. The exhibit showcases the Navy's original underwater egress training device. Pictured above (L-R): CDR Luke Quebedeaux, CAPT Sean McCarthy, LCDR Tristan Alston, CDR Shawn Dobbs, CAPT Corey Littel, CDR Kim Littel, Mr. Bill Little, CAPT Tyler Scheeler, LT Patrick Martin, Mr. Brian Swan, CDR Justin Meeker, HMC (Ret.) Jack Blaine, LCDR Carlos Alvarez, and LT Angelita Moreno.

Virginia Beach, Va. Occupational Audiologists assigned to NMRTC Portsmouth, NEMPU-2, and NMFL complete an ear mold impression evolution to create custom hearing protection for the Marine Corps School of Music. During this evolution, impressions were taken for 51 students. This evolution provides students custom hearing protection prior to graduating the School of Music. Pictured above (L-R): Dr. Erica Wenner, LCDR Krystal Rapp, LCDR Anthony Litwinchuk, and CDR Amy McArthur.

San Diego, Calif. Physical Therapists pose with MSC Deputy Corps Chief, CAPT Kristin Hodapp, also a physical therapist, during the Corps Chief's visit to Naval Medical Center San Diego on 3 December 2024. Pictured above, Back row (L-R): LT Michael Krukiel, LTJG Astrid Pereira, CDR Hannah Hooten, LCDR Joshua Yahalom, CDR Eric Infante, LT Erin Wippermann, and LTJG McKenna Wilson. Front Row (L-R): LT Nicole Olney, LTJG Elizabeth Koenig, LT Rachel Lee, LTJG Marina Turner, and CAPT Hodapp.

MSCs IN FOCUS

Camp Lejeune, N.C. Pictured above: LCDR Michael Feroli (right), a physician assistant, conducts an exam on a simulated casualty during a training event at the Healthcare Simulation and Bioskills Center on 25 November 2024. The joint training tested Sailors on the multiple stages of healthcare providing in an active combat zone.

Great Lakes, Mich. Pictured above (L-R): CDR N. Cody Schaal, Commanding Officer of Naval Safety and Environmental Training Center/Industrial Hygiene Officer; CDR Jason Schmittschmitt, Commanding Officer of Navy Drug Screening Lab Great Lakes/Biochemist, and LCDR Dan Xu, Executive Officer of Navy Drug Screening Lab Great Lakes/Biochemist meet during CDR Schaal's visit to the command. This evolution provided an opportunity to learn about the forensic drug testing laboratory's capabilities in ensuring warfighter readiness by deterring illegal drug use.

Camp Pendleton, Calif. Pictured above: LT Kaitlin Walter wraps an amputated leg on a high-fidelity manikin caused by a simulated improvised explosive device (IED) blast during a training evolution conducted by Naval Expeditionary Medicine Warfighter Development Center (NEMWDC) at Bravo 1 Range, Camp Pendleton on 16 December 2024. LT Walter is an emergency room physician assistant with NMRTC Camp Lejeune who is set to deploy with the ERSS team in Spring 2025. LT Walter mentions, "flexibility is key because our team is so small. You have to hold multiple roles which puts us out of our comfort zone, so learning how to be flexible is the biggest thing I learned."

Portsmouth, Va. Pictured above: The Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command (NMCFHPC) holds a promotion ceremony for LT Ademola Ajiboye (right), a healthcare administrator with the NMCFHPC, on 3 January 2025. LT Ajiboye was pinned by his wife (left) during the ceremony held on the NMCFHPC quarterdeck. (U.S. Navy photo by Desmond Martin)

MSCs IN FOCUS

Patuxent River, Md. Pictured above (L-R): LCDR Patrick Baker, Clinical Social Work, receives 2024 Admiral Melvin O'Neill Award from U.S. Army Colonel (Ret.) Neil Johnson on 21 November 2024 at Naval Health Clinic Patuxent River.

Portsmouth, Va. Pictured above: The Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command (NMCFHPC) hosts an award ceremony for LCDR Niesha Townsend (left), HCA, and the Associate Director of Administration for NMCFHPC on 4 December 2024 at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. During the ceremony, LCDR Townsend was awarded with a certificate and recognized as the Junior Enterprise Officer of the year for her efforts and contributions to the command. (Navy Photo by Desmond Martin)

Silver Spring, Md. Pictured above: CDR Mark Simons (center), Microbiology, with Naval Medical Research Command (NMRC), discusses Navy Medicine Research & Development efforts to advance service member health and readiness with RDML Matthew Case (left), acting assistant director, Defense Health Agency, Healthcare Administration; and director, Naval Medical Service Corps, during a tour of the command's headquarters and laboratories on 9 December 2024. NMRC is engaged in a broad spectrum of activities, from basic science in the laboratory to field studies in austere and remote areas of the world to investigations in operational environments. In support of the Navy, Marine Corps and joint U.S. warfighters, researchers study infectious diseases, biological warfare detection and defense, combat casualty care, environmental health concerns, aerospace and undersea medicine, medical modeling, simulation, operational mission support, epidemiology and behavioral sciences. (U.S. Navy Photo by Tommy Lamkin/Released)

Silver Spring, Md. Pictured above (L-R): CAPT Guillermo Pimentel, a microbiologist with Naval Medical Research Command (NMRC), speaks with CDR Kellye Donovan, POMI and branch head Expeditionary Medicine, Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory, during her visit to the command on 9 December 2024. NMRC is engaged in a broad spectrum of activities, from basic science in the laboratory to field studies in austere and remote areas of the world to investigations in operational environments. In support of the Navy, Marine Corps and joint U.S. warfighters, researchers study infectious diseases, biological warfare detection and defense, combat casualty care, environmental health concerns, aerospace and undersea medicine, medical modeling, simulation, operational mission support, epidemiology and behavioral sciences. (U.S. Navy photo by Mike Wilson/Released)

MSCs IN FOCUS

Sigonella, Italy. Pictured left: HM1 Cameron Arthur Galindo, native of Caldwell, Idado and graduate of Caldwell Senior High School, has honorably served in the United States Navy for 11 years. His career has included assignments at NMRTC Pensacola, NMRTC Charleston, and currently at USNMRTC Sigonella as a Laboratory Technician. Despite the many demands of military service, he pursued academia in tandem with his full-time naval career. He graduated from University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences with a bachelor in health sciences degree and obtained his American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) lab certification for Medical Laboratory Scientist. This year, he was selected for the Medical Service Corps Inservice Procurement Program (MSC-IPP). Approximately one percent of the American population serve in the United States military and within the United States Navy, roughly 16 percent of all service members are commissioned officers. HM1 Galindo exemplifies the potential that the United States Navy fosters in its personnel. Reflecting on his journey, HM1 stated, "Growing up in a smaller, rural town like Caldwell, taught me that you can accomplish a lot with determination and hard work. Additionally, I learned not to be afraid to seek help from those who are more experienced. Those lessons have translated well into my military career."

Beaufort S.C. Pictured left (R-L): LT Tikina Carpenter was promoted on 3 January 2025 to her present rank. She is pictured here with CAPT Tracy Isaac, Commanding Officer of NMRTC Beaufort and Director of Naval Hospital Beaufort.

Yorktown, Va. Class 24010 poses for a group photo after its graduation ceremony from the Tri-Service Optician School (TOPS), a directorate of Naval Medical Leader and Professional Development Command (NMLPDC), on 13 December 2024. CMDCM Owen Hondorf (far left) is the NMLPDC Command Master Chief. Pictured right: CAPT Katharine Shobe (second from left) is the NMLPDC Commanding Officer and a research psychologist. CDR Joshua Keil (far right), is the TOPS Dean and an optometrist. (Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Heath Zeigler)

Indianapolis, Ind. Navy Optometrists take a break from continuing education offered at a recent Armed Forces Optometric Society meeting. Pictured above (L-R): CDR Amanda Jimenez-Myers, LT Richard Wan, CDR Erica Poole, CAPT Robert Senko, LCDR Brent Hume, CDR Sara Bustamante, LT Anson Tam, CDR Patricia Salazar, ENS Tyson Montgomery, LT Juilianne Hui, CDR Michael Kerekgyarto, LT Sherry Sandri, and CDR (Ret.) Kevin Jackson.

Indianapolis, Ind. Pictured above in uniform (L-R): LCDR Kamilah Johnson, LT Julianne Hui, and LT Anson Tam—all Navy Optometrists—are named new Fellows of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) during the AAO's annual meeting on 7 November 2024. Fellows of the American Academy of Optometry must complete a candidacy process that includes submitting written works for peer review that demonstrate their skills as an optometrist or vision scientist. They must also sit for an oral exam at the annual meeting. It is estimated that approximately 10 percent of practicing optometrists in the U.S. are Fellows.

MSC HOLIDAY GREETINGS

USTRANSCOM

Scott AFB, Ill. Pictured left (L-R): LT Omega McNeese-Haliburton, HCA; CAPT Christopher Lingard, Deputy Chief, Commander's Action Group; and LCDR Veronica White, HCA, gather to capture the holiday spirit.

NMRC

Silver Spring, Md. Naval Medical Research Command (NMRC) MSCs attend the command's annual holiday potluck and ugly sweater contest. Pictured above, Back row (L-R): LT Xarviera Brown, EHO; CDR Carolynn Rager, HCA/DFA; CDR Mark Simons, Microbiology; LCDR Travis Doggett, Research Physiology; and LTJG Eric Fotso, Medical Logistics. Middle row (L-R): LCDR Connie Johnson, Entomology; CAPT Sheri Parker, Research Physiology; CAPT Franca Jones, Microbiology/Commander, NMRC; CDR Michael Stockelman, Microbiology; and LCDR Stephen Lizewski, Microbiology. Front row: LT Peta-Gaye Hylton-Sanderson, HCA.

USNMRTC Okinawa

Okinawa, Japan. U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Okinawa "Pride of the Pacific" Holiday Photo. Pictured above, Back row (L-R): LT Mayek Mavi, Industrial Hygiene; LCDR Timothy Hopkins, Med Lab Science; LTJG Joshua Maigue, HCA; LT Keegan Marcantel, Occupational Therapy; LCDR Emily Debo-Trosclair, Clinical Social Work; LTJG Brandon Clarida, Environmental Health Officer; LTJG Daniel Longmire, Environmental Health Officer; LTJG Ray Daniels, HCA; LTJG Nathaniel Perry, HCA; LT Kyle Rodgers, Audiologist; LT Khadijah Preaster, HCA; LCDR Harry Tran, IT/Optometry; LT Shunsey Brooks, Industrial Hygiene; LCDR Claire Schofield, DRM; LT Chatty Natelli, HCA; and LT Yocelin Hernandez-Rojero, Occupational Therapy. Front row (L-R): LT Michael King, Med Lab Science; LT Mari Moffitt, Dietitian; CDR Robert Nevins, HCA/DFA; CAPT Kathleen Cooperman, CO; LTJG Emmanuel Boadu, HCA; and LTJG Brittany Brooks, HCA.

NAMRU EURAFCENT

Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy. Naval Medical Research Unit EURAFCENT Medical Service Corps Officers. Pictured left (L-R): CDR Micah Kinney, Optometry/Executive Officer; CDR John North, HCA/DFA; LCDR Robert Hontz, Microbiology/U.S. Embassy Accra Site Director; LCDR Matt Montgomery, Entomology; and LCDR Dustin Harrison, Microbiology/U.S. Embassy Cairo Site Director. Not pictured: LCDR Anca Selariu and LT Daniel Silberger, both microbiologists.

MSC HOLIDAY GREETINGS

NMLPDC

Bethesda, Md. Naval Medical Leader and Professional Development Command (NMLPDC) Medical Service Corps officers gather for a photo at their annual Command Suite Holiday Open House on 11 Dec 2024. Pictured above, Back row (L-R): CDR Jason Switzer, HCA; LCDR Tanniesha Watts, POMI; and LCDR Syed Husain, Microbiology. Second row (L-R): LCDR Brendan O'Boyle, Medical Logistics; LTJG Ashley Barker, HCA; CAPT Stacy Washington, HCA; CAPT Katie Shobe, Research Psychology/Commanding Officer; and CDR Jason Delinsky, HCA. Front row/kneeling (L-R): CDR Joey LaBarbera, Manpower and Personnel/DFA, and LCDR Ato Anderson, Comptroller.

MSC Association of Hampton Roads

Norfolk, VA. Pictured left: The Medical Service Corps Association of Hampton Roads hosts a Holiday Gathering on 20 December 2024. MSC officers from various commands around the Hampton Roads area are in attendance.

3d Medical Battalion, 3D MLG

Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan 3d Medical Battalion, 3D MLG. Pictured above (L-R): LT Vanessa Pursell, Physician Assistant, Shock Trauma Platoon; LT Bianca Gabriel, HCA, H&S S-1 Manpower and Personnel OIC; LT Ornita Bouie, HCA, Third Platoon Admin Officer; LT Eleanor Moen, Entomology, H&S S-2 Security Management OIC; LT Robert Manzo, EHO, H&S Adjutant & Legal Officer; LT Riley Tedrow, Entomology; H&S S-3 Operations AOIC; ENS Ben Torine, HCA, H&S S-6 Communications AOIC; CAPT Justin Logan, HCA, Commanding Officer 3D Medical Battalion; LT Adam Salyer, Entomology, previous Alpha Co XO; LT Siddiq Konneh, EHO, H&S Safety OIC; LTJG Taiga Robb, HCA, H&S S-2 Security Management AOIC; LT Nnamdi Emenogu, HCA, Alpha Company XO; LTJG Roscoe Gillum, H&S S-1 Manpower and Personnel AOIC; LT Cristina Abarno, Clinical Psychology, Evans Clinic; LTJG Mario Acostamorales, HCA, Medical Skills Training Center AOIC; and LT Julia Garza, Clinical Psychology, Mental Health Platoon OIC.

DMRTI

Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. Defense Medical Research Training Institute (DMRTI) Navy and Army Medical Service Corps Officers celebrating the holiday season. Pictured right (L-R): LT Kimberly Lavelle-Melin, HCA; LT Gwendolyn Brown-Jiles, HCA; CDR Renardis Banks, HCA/Chief, DMRTI; MAJ(P) Michael Cooper, Army Logistician/USA Deputy Chief, DMRTI; LT Narce Segovia, HCA; and LTJG Laretha Lewis, HCA.

MSC HOLIDAY GREETINGS

NMRTC Camp Lejeune

Camp Lejeune, N.C. Pictured above. Front Row (L-R): ENS Sara Hutchinson, Med Lab Science; LT Thomasina Wallace, Clinical Psychology; ENS Selina Arzu, Med Lab Science; LCDR Denise Sahm, Occupational Therapy; LT Amanda Shaunessy, Clinical Psychology; CAPT Edward Owens, CO FMTB-E; and LT Antoinette Saunders, HCA. Middle Row (L-R): LTJG Michael Adams, HCA; LTJG Toan Tran, HCA; LCDR Edward Agbevey-Tamakloe, Comptroller; LTJG Lalaineya Esperanza, Clinical Social Work; LTJG Caitlin Phillips, Clinical Social Work; LCDR Tammy Nguyen, Med Lab Science; LCDR Michelle Rizzo-Pelley, EHO; LT Lizette Gonzalez, HCA; LTJG Julia Adams Olson, Clinical Social Work; LT Rudy Jones, Physical Therapy; LCDR Michael Kantar, Dietetics; LCDR Serge Shkuro, Deputy DFA; CAPT Darryl Arfsten, CO EMF Kilo; and LCDR Ryan DiParisi, HCA. Back Row (L-R): CDR David Bennett, DBC; CDR Jason Wright, DFA, CDR Kathleen Smith, DCSS; ENS Moises RodriguezTorres, Med Lab Science; LCDR Philip Hensley, Clinical Social Work; LCDR Mike Boca, HCA; LTJG Brogan Hoover, PT; ENS Cassidy Pagett, Med Lab Science; LTJG Jasheem McRae, Occupational Therapy; LCDR Terence Cusack, Pharmacy; LCDR Dean Olson, HCA; and LTJG Peyton Oldham, Clinical Social Work.

NMRTC Bremerton

Bremerton, Wash. Pictured left (L-R): LT Shane Garduno, HCA; LT Renzo Sobrevilla, Medical Logistics; LTJG David Tegtmeyer, HCA; LT Randy Le, Dietetics; LTJG Alex Pinzas, HCA; CAPT Karla Lepore, Occupational Therapy/Commanding Officer; CAPT Maria Edusada, HCA/DFA; CDR Laura Moody, Industrial Hygiene; CDR Dean Kang, Pharmacy; LTJG Paulo Guillencancino, HCA, and LT Leonard Abadam, Physician Assistant.

NMTSC

San Antonio, Texas. Navy Medicine Training Support Command Medical Service Corps officers gather for a holiday photo. Pictured left (L-R): LT Shannette Davis, HCA; HM2 Samuel Johnson, MSC-IPP Selectee; LT Adam Czosek, HCA; LT Amethyst Marrone, HCA; CAPT F. Elaine McClellan, HCA/DFA; LCDR Amanda Rose HCA/Comptroller; LTJG Kaysha Honeycutt, HCA; and LT Wesley Mouton, HCA.

USNS COMFORT (T-AH-20)

Norfolk, Va. USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20)'s officers gather for a picture in the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Chapel as the ship undergoes regular overhaul in Mobile, Ala. In December 2024. Pictured right (L-R): CDR Laura A. Letchworth, HCA/DFA; LCDR Lester I. Vidal, HCA/ASUPPO; and LT Jayni A. Patel, Environmental Health Officer.

MSC HOLIDAY GREETINGS

NMRTU Everett

Everett, Wash. Navy Medicine Readiness Training Unit Everett. Pictured left (L-R): LT Julianne Hui, Optometry/DH; CDR Micheal Bowers, HCA/OIC; LT Anna Van Eerden, Physician Assistant; LT E. Shae Thomson, Environmental Health Officer/DH; LCDR Jeffrey Holcomb, Physician Assistant; and LCDR Ashley Gripe, Physical Therapy/DH.

NMOTC

Pensacola, Fla. Navy Medicine Operational Training Command. Pictured right, Back row (L-R): LCDR Mike Schaffer, HCA; CAPT Corey Little, NAOP; CDR Kimberly Little, NAOP; CAPT Nichole Olson, Optometry/CO; CAPT Sean McCarthy, NAOP; LTJG Jasmine Walls, HCA; and LT Radnee Barraquias, HCA/Logistics; Front row (L-R): CDR Leonarda Deguzman, HCA/Comptroller; CDR Megan Rieman, Aerospace Optometry; and CAPT Maria Coon, HCA/DFA.

NMRTC Quantico

Quantico, Va. Medical Service Corps officers gather in the main lobby of Naval Health Clinic Quantico. Pictured right (L-R): LCDR Katheryn Ryan, Physical Therapy; LCDR Shellita Green, HCA, LCDR Marie Congo, HCA; LTJG Matthew McGinn, Physician Assistant; LT Tyrone Thomas, HCA; LT Myra McGowan, Physical Therapy; LCDR Curtis Hollie, HCA; and LCDR Kevin Mollema, HCA/DFA.

NMRTC Fort Belvoir

Fort Belvoir, Va. Navy Medical Readiness Training Command Fort Belvoir, Medical Service Corps officers celebrate the holiday season! Pictured left, Back row (L-R): LCDR Albert Lee, Physical Therapy; LT Ashraful Haque, HCA, LCDR Jillian Mears, Physical Therapy; LCDR Tanesia Maul, Pharmacy; LCDR Brittany Haden, HCA; CDR Shani Henry, HCA; CDR Stephanie Long, Clinical Psychology; LT Chris Stills, HCA; LT Frank Nketsiah, Pharmacy; and CAPT Rodel Divina, Optometry. Front row (L-R): LT Karen Graydon, Med Lab Science; LCDR Amber Morris, Clinical Psychology, LT Yeon Yoo Koo, Pharmacy; and LT Rachel Ratliff, Pharmacy.

MSC HOLIDAY GREETINGS

NMFP

San Diego, Calif. Naval Medical Forces Pacific's Medical Service Corps officers who are instrumental in providing oversight for 10 Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Commands on the West Coast and Pacific Rim, Naval Medical Research Command, and Naval Expeditionary Medicine Warfighter Development Center gather in front of the NMFP headquarters. Pictured left, Back row (L-R): LCDR (Ret.) Daniel Ratican, Industrial Hygiene Officer; LCDR Craig Wilcox, Patient Admin; LCDR (Ret.) Jerry Brown, III, HFFPO; and CDR Ryan Jarmer, Health Information Technology. Front row (L-R): LCDR Richard Thatcher, DHN-PR/HCA; LT Domica Humphries, HCA; CDR (Ret.) Kelly Paul, Audiology; LT Jamie Davis, Comptroller; LCDR (Ret.) Tracy Lewis, HCA; and LCDR Matthew McGrath, POMI.

NMRTC Lemoore

Lemoore, Calif. Pictured above. Front row (L-R): LTJG Ryan Noble, Physician Assistant; LTJG Jessica Lokun, HCA; LT Nickolas Lamal, Environmental Health Officer; LT Marsades Ceasar, Clinical Social Work; LT Cory Lawerence-Fisher, Optometry; LT Emmanuel Okeke, HCA; and LT Irene Brodd, Clinical Psychology. Back row (L-R): LT Matthew Zelkoski, HCA; CDR Jaypee Punzal, HCA/DFA; CAPT Aaron Werbel, Clinical Psychology/Commanding Officer; LCDR Ayoyinka Aluko, Pharmacy; and LCDR Donald Kallail, Physical Therapy.

USUHS

Bethesda, Md. During the holiday season, the Uniformed Services University recently honored seven exceptional Master of Health Administration and Policy (MHAP) students by inducting them into the Upsilon Phi Delta International Honor Society. Both new and returning inductees proudly wore their honor cords, symbolizing their outstanding academic achievements throughout their graduate programs. Pictured above, Front row (L-R): ENS Laschon Simmons, 1st year MHAP Student; ENS Robbie Baca, 1st year MHAP Student; LT Quadre Nichols, 1st year MHAP Student; and LCDR Kezia Edmonson, MHAP Program Associate Director. Middle row (L-R): ENS Fabian Carlo Camingue, 1st year MHAP Student; ENS Mecole Scott, 2nd year MHAP Student; ENS Torrence Watkins, 2nd year MHAP Student; ENS Britney Bessarab, 2nd year MHAP Student; and ENS Norbert Owusu, 2nd year MHAP Student. Back row (L-R): CDR Beth Hawks, Vice Chair for Graduate Programs, USU; CDR Rich Bly, MHAP Program, Adjunct Assistant Professor; ENS Charlcie Roman, 2nd year MHAP Student; ENS Apolo Silva, 1st year MHAP Student; ENS Ariel Galang, 2nd year MHAP Student; LCDR Nabil Tahan, Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine and Biostatistics; LT Tyson Goodrich, MHAP Program, Assistant Professor and MedXellence Director; and LCDR Christian Betancourt, MHAP Program Director.

NMRTC San Diego

San Diego, Calif. Pictured left: Medical Service Corps officers from NMRTC San Diego and the surrounding San Diego area gather for a holiday group photo, joined by RDML Matthew Case, Director of the MSC, to wish the entire MSC community, "Happy Holidays," on 3 December 2024. The photo commemorates RDML Case's recent visit to Naval Medical Center San Diego, where he engaged with MSC officers, providing mentorship and guidance on career development, promotion pathways, and the future of military medicine.

MSC HOLIDAY GREETINGS

NMRTC Jacksonville

Jacksonville, Fla. Pictured left, Front row (L-R): CDR Larry Middleton, DFA/HCA; LT Gloria Eze, Pharmacy; LT Alexa Clifton, Physical Therapy; LCDR Angela Sadosky, Occupational Therapy; LT Sasha Tittel, Med Lab Science; LT Jason Paoletta; HCA; and CAPT Jeremy Pyles, EMF Mike CO/HCA. Second row (L-R): LT Angelique Barone, Occupational Therapy; ENS Pliniojoel Flores, Med Lab Science; LT Cooper Cassidy, Aerospace Operational Physiology; CDR Elizabeth Farrar, ADFA/HCA; LCDR Elisa Menck, Physical Therapy; and LCDR Eric Neumaier, ADHB/Clinical Psychology. Third row (L-R): LT Ian Sparks, Aerospace Operational Physiology; LCDR Josh Muffett, Aerospace Operational Physiology; LCDR Amber Lenfert, HCA; LCDR Tawanda Cade, Physician Assistant; and LT Thealia Thompson, HCA. Fourth row (L-R): Mr. Wes Marsh, retired MSC currently working at University of Florida Health as a Neurosurgery Operations Manager), and LCDR Matthew Gallagher, Financial Management.

MARFOREUR/AF

Boblingen, Germany. Happy Holidays from U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa! Pictured right (L-R): LCDR Robert Bartholomew, POMI; LCDR Hilary William, Environmental Health Officer; and CDR Eugene Osborn, POMI.

USNMRTC Sigonella

Sigonella, Italy. Happy Holidays from the Medical Service Corps officers stationed at U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Sigonella! Pictured above (L-R): LT Euriviades Beltre, Comptroller; LT Paul Grigsby, Optometry; LTJG Nicholas Kirsch, HCA; LT Julius Wiseman, HCA; LCDR Michael Orr, Med Lab Science; CDR Joseph Fromknecht, HCA; LCDR Dara White, HCA; LT Thato Manyothwane, HCA; LCDR Alan Gutberlet, Health Information Technology; CDR Amanda Berg, Clinical Psychology; LCDR Timothy Kraynack, Ortho PA; LT Angelo Alano, HCA; and LTJG Julia Bruemmer-Terrell, HCA.

USNMRTC Guam

Agana Heights, Guam. Pictured above: The Pharmacy staff at U.S. NMRTC Guam sends a Happy Holidays 2024 greeting.

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The Medical Service Corps supports Navy Medicine's readiness and health benefits mission. It is the most diverse Officer Corps in Navy Medicine with 31 specialties organized under three major categories: Healthcare Administrators, Clinical Care Specialties, and Healthcare Scientists. There are over 3,000 active and reserve MSC Officers that serve at Military Treatment Facilities, on ships, with the Fleet Marine Force, with Seabee and special warfare units, in research centers and laboratories, in a myriad of staff positions with the Navy and Marine Corps, and with our sister services around the world.

milSuite

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